

EDITORIAL

CURRENT EVENTS: THE DRIFT OF THINGS AS WE SEE IT.

Except in the Russo-Japanese War, last week brought no events of overshadowing importance. There the Russian's hope of success at the first of the week wilted like a Jonah's gourd before the week was half done.

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Political Notes.

In this country interest still centers in the political situation, though there have of late been no developments of real importance. Mr. Bryan is stumping Indiana, and is telling the people there that Roosevelt should be defeated because he insists on stirring up the race issue in the South. Vice-Presidential Davis is making a campaign tour on a special train, and his marvelous vigor is surprising those who have been saying with Mr. Dooley that he "is 81 years old and has forty million dollars, or is forty million years old and has eighty-one dollars—anyway the figures pass belief." Mr. Cleveland is to preside at a great Parker and Davis rally in New York City, and may make one or two other speeches. Carl Schurz has addressed a letter to the independent vote, urging the defeat of Roosevelt as one who has proven false to the high political ideals he formerly preached.

Meanwhile, the Republicans are working like Trojans and profess to be supremely confident of success. They point out that they have only to get 30 votes in doubtful States to elect Roosevelt while it will require 84 votes from doubtful States to elect Parker.

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A Close Contest for the House of Representatives.

And it is, in fact, very generally admitted even by the most ardent Democratic managers that the chances favor Roosevelt's election. It is by no means so certain, however, that the Republicans will retain control of the National House of Representatives. The situation in this respect is so well summarized by the New York Outlook in the following informing editorial which we reprint in full for the benefit of our readers:

"There are 386 members of the House. A party to have the majority must have at least 194 members. The Republicans now have a majority of about 34. In the present campaign there are about 162 districts that are regarded as safely Democratic, and about 153 that are set down as safely Republican. This leaves 71 doubtful districts, and in these the battle for control of the House will be fought. To get a bare majority the Republicans must carry 42 of these districts and the Democrats 31. The problem has been complicated by the number districts in States where the National Republican Committee feels safe without making effort, and in others which are likely to be abandoned as hopeless. There are five districts in Wisconsin now represented by Republicans which are doubtful because of the party feud between Governor La Follette's 'Half-Breeds' and Senator Spooner's 'Stalwarts.' It is said that the National Committee does not dare interfere in that State. Nebraska is perfectly safe for Roosevelt and Fairbanks, because the fusion between the Democrats and Populists does not extend to the electoral ticket, but there is complete fusion for members of the Legislature, who will vote for William J. Bryan for United States Senator, and for members of the House of Representatives. This makes four districts now represented by Republicans doubtful. So, too, in Kansas, where Mr. Roosevelt will have a tremendous majority, fusion has placed three Republican districts in the doubtful column. Massachusetts is also safely Republican on the National ticket, but three Republican districts are fighting-ground, and the two districts in Rhode Island are questionable. Connecticut, with a solid represen-

tation in the lower House of Congress of five, has three members who will have sharp contests. Republican campaigners are also figuring as in the balance four of the five Republican districts in West Virginia, four in Ohio, three in New Jersey, and the entire delegation of Colorado. It may be the hardest battle for control of the House fought since 1892—harder than that of 1898, when the Republicans got through with thirteen majority."

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Watson's Letter of Acceptance.

In previous issues of The Progressive Farmer we have reviewed at considerable length the letters of acceptance of Messrs. Roosevelt and Parker. Last Monday, the Populist candidate, Thomas E. Watson, formally accepted his nomination in a letter which the New York Outlook pronounces "by far the liveliest contribution to campaign literature in the present canvass." Mr. Watson scores both Roosevelt and Parker, but he insists that Roosevelt is a straight-out Republican and plutocrat who fights in the open, while Parker, pretending to be the opposition candidate, really stands for practically nothing that Roosevelt opposes. "Oh, if that pretense at Esopus would only get out of my way," he declares, "I would lead a fight for genuine democracy that would startle the powers that be!"

"The People's Party," says Mr. Watson, "favors the public ownership of public utilities. In nearly every civilized country the government owns the railways, the telegraphs and the telephones. The last two should be a part of our postoffice system, to which should be added the parcel post, to free our people from the extortionate charges of the express companies. The People's Party has always earnestly advocated the graduated income tax. This would not only throw the support of the government upon the rich, where it should be, but would, in a great measure, prevent the accumulation of huge, unnecessary and dangerous fortunes. We favor the eight-hour law, and the abolition of child-labor in factories, where the unhealthy moral and physical conditions are almost certain to destroy the child. We believe it to be a part of man's natural liberty and equality to labor for himself and not for a master, and that the laws should be so framed that there should be no monopoly of the land for either the living or the dead."

It is probably true that the Republican National National Committee is aiding the Populists in some States, but there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Mr. Watson himself. Nor is it surprising that many men who supported Mr. Bryan with his free silver and anti-monopoly planks in 1896 and 1900 are not satisfied with Candidate Parker in 1904. The Watson movement was inevitable.

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Japs and Russians in Another Great Battle.

The heaviest fighting since the battle of Liao Yang occurred in the vicinity of Mukden last week. On Monday it was announced with a flourish that Gen. Kuropatkin would assume the offensive, that Russia had decided that the time for vigorous fighting had come, and that henceforth the tide of war would turn against the Japs. And this report, as the St. Petersburg dispatches announced last Tuesday, "sent a thrill of joy throughout Russia." But the joy was short-lived. Kuropatkin did leave Mukden and surprise the Japanese at Yentai, and at first, it did look as if he would win a victory. "I have now begun to make war," he telegraphed to his home government, and the Russian press grew enthusiastic. But even as—

"The King of France with forty thousand men Marched up hill and then marched down again,"—so did Kuropatkin with his 200,000 Russians. With the fierceness of a tiger surprised in his lair, the Japanese, after a temporary wavering, turned upon the Cossack forces and drove them

back after terrible fighting. "On both sides," says the Associated Press, "there have been such losses in killed and wounded as make the contest one of the bloodiest battles in history. Already the losses at Liao Yang have been approximated and the indication are that they will be exceeded; that of the Russians up to noon of October 14 being estimated at 15,000."

In the bitter cold which so numbed the fingers of the soldiers as to make accurate aiming difficult, here occurred perhaps the most desperate fighting of the war. The Russians, inspired by hope of victory at last, fought with a courage such as they have not shown before.

"Both sides displayed complete disregard of of life," says a Mukden dispatch. "Villages and other positions were taken and retaken seven and eight times daily at terrible cost. Hand-to-hand encounters were frequent, the combatants throwing hand grenades with murderous effect. The cannonading continued all night. Guns have been captured and re-captured in force in hand-to-hand fights, while a pitiless downpour of rain, the inevitable accompaniment of a great battle, has flooded the trenches and drenches both armies without allaying the desperate conflict."

The Russian officials, and especially the Czar, who is said to have personally directed General Kuropatkin to assume the offensive, are greatly depressed by the defeat.

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Candidate Glenn's Educational Policy.

When Hon. R. B. Glenn was nominated for Governor by the Democratic Convention in Greensboro last June, there were many who feared that he would stump the State in favor of the Vardaman idea, that is, for crippling the negro schools by allowing them only the direct school taxes paid by the negroes—a policy which, as Governor Aycock pointed out, would be unworthy of a strong race dealing with a weaker, and would do incalculable harm by driving labor from the State. Responsibility, however, seems to have sobered Mr. Glenn—or perhaps it is only the fact that the Convention which nominated him almost unanimously rejected the Vardaman plank he had been reported as favoring. At Smithfield last week Mr. Glenn, according to a report in the Raleigh News and Observer, thus defined his educational views:

"Saying that he was asked for his views on education, he said that some had reported that he opposed education. 'I do not,' he cried. 'I favor education. Aycock is a taller, a higher man than I, a man of more ability, but I am going to stand on tiptoe and see if I cannot write my name in education a quarter of an inch higher than his.' Then he told that for the negro he favored an education in reading, writing and arithmetic, followed by instruction that would fit him for the farm, and for labor that befits him, that the Bible made the negro a hewer of wood and he did not favor a division in half of the school funds, nor yet for the negro to be educated from only his own taxes, but that something above this should be given him. Mr. Glenn also urged an education of the hand for the white boy and girl, and for his own daughter declared that he would rather see her married to a laboring man of character, than to a dude, no matter how high sounding his name, without character."

If Mr. Glenn as Governor will confine himself to this line of activity—to giving public education a practical and industrial turn—he may do a no less notable service to the State by urging better schools than Governor Aycock has done by urging longer schools. For it is true that we stand in about as dire need of an improved quality of rural education as of an increased quantity of rural education. The law for teaching agriculture to all children over fourteen is only step in the right direction, and this law is by no means generally enforced as yet. Especially is there need of a changed policy in the negro schools, for as the writer said in The Progressive Farmer three weeks ago: "Industrial education, as exemplified in Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, strikes directly at the evils which foster crime; and to breathe the spirit of these institutions into the general public school system of the negro race is the imperative and immediate duty of those who have the matter in charge. To delay in this means danger. It is the impotence and ineptness of the old systems that have brought people to doubt the wisdom of all negro education."